

## What is a Poetry Slam?

It's competition poetry: meaning humor, politics, entertainment masquerading as literature, literature masquerading as entertainment. Poets read, then judges flash Olympic-style scoring (ranging from 1 to 10) based on both writing and performance of the poem. This goes on for 3 rounds to determine somebody with a high score that we can declare as the winner. In truth, everyone who adds to the event should be considered a winner, but we only have one trophy, we have to figure out some way to give it out.

## What can the audience do?

Cheer, boo, clap. You're who the poet wants to reach, respond accordingly. Especially if you like what you see: don't silently admire, let poets know they're doing something worth doing.

## What kind of poetry should you read at a slam?

Any. Some styles certainly get higher scores at most slams, but you are encouraged to bring or write that day whatever you feel like reading: a sonnet, a sestina, a 3-minute political rant, a free verse exclamation on the glory of llamas, a haiku, just do it.

Find out about slam at:  
**Poetryslam.com**



Homestead National Monument of America  
8523 West State Highway 4  
Beatrice, NE 68310-6743

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**Attention:  
Writing Teachers!**



# **Prairie Visions Writing Festival & Poetry Slam with Matt Mason**

# Prairie Visions Writing Festival & Poetry Slam

## WHO

Join poet Matt Mason and other high school juniors and seniors from around the state of Nebraska for the *Prairie Visions Writing Festival*.

## WHAT

*Prairie Visions Writing Festival* is a poetry writing workshop designed to help students improve their writing skills. In the morning Mr. Mason will give classes on writing poetry and the rules on the Poetry Slam for the afternoon. Students will then take their box lunch and drawing inspiration from Homestead's tallgrass prairie, write their own poetry. Following lunch, students will come together and if they choose participate in the Poetry Slam for a trophy!

## WHEN

*Prairie Visions Writing Festival* will be on **Wednesday, September 28, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

## WHERE

*Prairie Visions Writing Festival* will be held at Homestead National Monument of America's Education Center. The workshop will be outside, underneath a tent. Students will also be walking the trails so please dress accordingly.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Pre-registration is required. Fill out the form at [www.nps.gov/home/for teachers](http://www.nps.gov/home/for_teachers). Then email, fax or mail it to the numbers on the form by September 23, 2011. Space is limited to the first 100 students.

Registration is \$5 per person which pays for lunch. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Homestead. Food will be ordered for the number registered as such, payment must be made for all registered participants.

For questions on registration, please contact Tina Miller, Education Coordinator at (402) 223-3514 or email her at [tina\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:tina_miller@nps.gov).

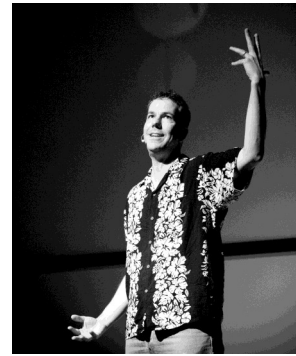
## PARTNERSHIPS

*Prairie Visions Writing Festival* is done in partnership with Friends of Homestead and the Beatrice Public Library.

## THE FINE PRINT

Student submissions will be compiled and copied into a spiral bound book. All students will receive a copy of the book as well as each school's library. Students should have their parent/guardian Release to Publish form

## MATT MASON



Matt Mason received his MA in Creative Writing from the University of California at Davis in 1994, then returned to Omaha, where he works to promote public poetry readings and poetry readers as executive director of the Nebraska Writers Collective, president of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and through PoetryMenu.com, an online listing of poetry events. Matt's first book of poetry, *Things We Don't Know We Don't Know*, won the 2007 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry and was a Contemporary Poetry Best Seller. He runs the monthly poetry slam and open mic at the Omaha Healing Arts Center and was on 5 poetry slam teams at the National Poetry Slam. Matt has helped with poetry events in Nepal and Belarus through the U.S. State Department and also for bookstores, high schools, junior highs, colleges, libraries, state fairs, and more in the U.S.

**Learn more about Matt @  
[matt.midverse.com/](http://matt.midverse.com/)**

**REGISTER AT [WWW.NPS.GOV/HOME/FOR TEACHERS](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/HOME/FOR_TEACHERS) OR CALL 402-223-3514**